

Dear Chair and committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 2400, which proposes to provide public funding for home and private education. As a member of the North Dakota Home School Association (NDHSA) and a firm believer in the importance of parental responsibility in education, I urge you to oppose this bill for the following reasons:

First, parents are ultimately responsible for the education of their children. Home education has long been rooted in the principle that parents, not the government, are best equipped to make decisions about their children's education. Public funding would undermine this responsibility by introducing government oversight and regulation.

Second, the recipient of funding is always accountable to the source of the funds. If homeschool families receive public money, they will inevitably be required to comply with government standards and oversight. This would compromise the very freedom that makes home education effective and tailored to each child's unique needs.

Furthermore, freedom to educate according to conscience is more important than funding. "School choice" is best accomplished not through government subsidies but by reducing regulations and lowering taxes. This allows parents and communities to create educational environments that meet the specific needs of their children, without interference from government mandates.

Therefore, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 2400. Public funding for home education would compromise the independence and effectiveness of home and private schooling, ultimately undermining the very principle of school choice.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I urge you to mark SB 2400 as do not pass or amend the bill to allow homeschoolers to opt out as well as removing the century code from the bill.

Sincerely,

Lydia